



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA

AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Peck Iron and Metal Site

Elm Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia

May 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes adding the Peck Iron and Metal Site to the Superfund National Priorities List for cleanup.

What is the National Priorities List (NPL)?

The National Priorities List (NPL) is a national list of sites where hazardous contaminants could impact public health and/or the environment. NPL sites undergo a thorough investigation to determine the full nature and extent of the pollution, and undergo a long-term cleanup to protect public health and the environment.

How does a site get listed on the NPL?

What happens if it gets listed?

Sites that may pose a threat to humans or the environment are screened using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) model. This model evaluates four pathways: ground water, surface water, soil and air. Sites that receive a score above 28.5 are considered priority sites and can be proposed to the NPL.

Once a site has been proposed to the NPL, EPA holds a 60-day Public Comment Period. A final decision on whether or not to list the site on the NPL is made after EPA has evaluated and responded to all of the public comments in writing.

Once/if a site is formally added to the NPL, it becomes eligible for federal cleanup funding from the Superfund cleanup program. EPA and/or the parties responsible for the contamination then address risks the site may pose to public health and the environment.

Why is this site being considered for the NPL?

The 33-acre Peck Recycling property (formerly the Peck Iron & Metal Company) located on Elm Street

in Portsmouth, Virginia, once scrapped old Navy ships. Today it comprises a scrap yard with concrete rubble, cut metal, old pilings, rusting ship parts, and other hazardous debris.

Studies have indicated that elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and lead were found on-site and in wetlands and sediments of Paradise Creek. Should the site be formally listed on the NPL, EPA will work with responsible parties for the site to clean up the contamination.

Cleanup to occur within context of Elizabeth River restoration

Paradise Creek, bordering the Peck Iron and Metal site, flows into the southern branch of the Elizabeth River. The southern branch of the Elizabeth River in Virginia is the most contaminated tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The Elizabeth River is a heavily industrialized area. In addition to the Atlantic Wood Industries Superfund Site, the southern branch of the river includes several other hazardous waste cleanup sites, a power plant, a fertilizer company, chemical manufacturing facilities, oil and cement storage facilities, and U.S. Navy shipyards.

Plans underway to restore portions of the property

In 2003, Peck Land Company (the current owner) placed six acres of the site in permanent conservation with the Elizabeth River Project (ERP), a local non-profit organization focused on cleanup of the Elizabeth River. Peck Land Company continues to collaborate with ERP in a wetland restoration and reforestation project along the shore of the former scrap yard.

How you can comment.

The public is invited to comment on this site's proposed addition to the NPL. See back page for instructions

Public Comment Period

The public is invited to comment on the proposed addition of the site to the NPL during a 60-day Public Comment Period, **which ends June 8, 2009**.

Send written comments to: U.S. EPA Headquarters

CERCLA Docket Office
ATTN: Docket Coordinator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 5305T
Washington, DC 20460

You may also send comments through the website:

www.regulations.gov.

For more information, visit the website at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm.

All comments need to be sent either by U.S. mail or by use of the website.

Get Involved!

EPA's **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)** Program provides funding up to \$50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate and apply.

Community Advisory Groups may be formed at any point and serve as a liaison between EPA and the community. For TAG and CAG information, please contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator, at 1-800-553-2509

For additional information about the Peck Iron and Metal Site, please contact:

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PECK IRON AND METAL SITE



Peck Iron and Metal, April 2009
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